



NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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CONNECTICUT NATIONAL GUARD KICKS OFF “OPERATION SANTA EXPRESS”

HARTFORD, Conn., - Maj. Gen. Thaddeus J. Martin, the Adjutant General and Commander of the Connecticut National Guard, announces today the implementation of “Operation Santa Express,” to help families of deployed, those who recently returned and those soon to be deployed Soldiers during the holiday season.

Through “Operation Santa Express,” the Connecticut National Guard Family Program will be delivering more than 500 gifts to more than 100 Connecticut National Guard families of deployed Soldiers during the next few days.

The gifts include toys, gift cards and holiday greeting cards that will be transported by a Connecticut Army National Guard Express vehicle.

“The support and generosity has been overwhelming and it is heartwarming to know that our families and the children are taken care of at Christmas,” said Martin.

The packaging, sorting and loading is being done at the Hartford Armory by the Family Program beginning today through Wednesday, December 22, 2005.

All toys and gifts were donated in support of “Operation ELF” initiated by Gov. M. Jodi Rell in conjunction with the Connecticut National Guard. “Operation ELF” focuses on providing assistance to family members through donations and care packages to include deployed troops.